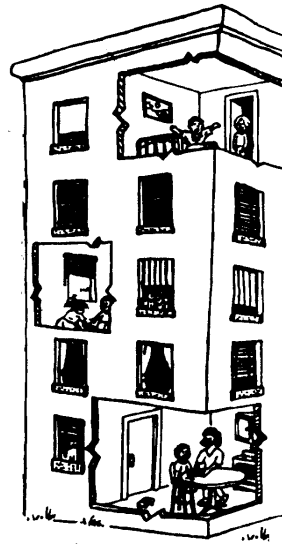


Tips for Keeping Children Safe From Lead

- ✓ Wet mop and clean at least once a week.
- ✓ Vacuum with a HEPA vacuum.
- ✓ Check for peeling, chipping, and chalking paint.
- ✓ Before remodeling your home, have it inspected for lead paint by a certified lead inspector.
- ✓ Have your children tested for lead poisoning by your health care provider.
- ✓ Wash your children's hands often.
- ✓ Wash your children's toys often. Toys collect dust.
- ✓ Give your children three healthy meals and at least two healthy snacks every day.
- ✓ If anyone in the household has a job or hobby that may involve lead, ask that person to change his or her clothes and take a shower before coming home.



National Lead Information Clearinghouse
(800) 424-LEAD



Ways to Reduce Lead Dust in Your Home or Apartment



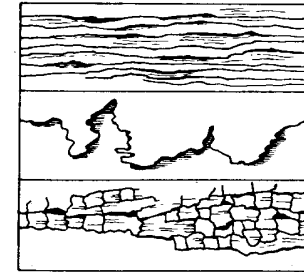
Developed by:

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
Department of Public Health
Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program
410-450 Capitol Ave.
Hartford, CT 06134-0308
(860) 509-7745 or
(860) 509-7299

November 1998

Facts About Lead Paint and Lead Dust

- Use of lead paint in homes was banned in 1978. Therefore, any home built before 1978 may contain lead paint. Also, the older your home is, the more likely it is that it contains lead paint.
- Lead dust is produced from lead paint as the paint gets older, if it is damaged by moisture, or if it is disturbed.
- Lead dust is so fine that it can not be seen.
- Lead dust is the most common source of lead poisoning for everyone, including pets. Children, between the ages of one and two, are at the greatest risk for getting lead poisoned. Ask your child's doctor what the risks are.
- By following the information in this pamphlet, you can decrease the amount of lead dust in your home.



Before You Begin

- Pregnant women must not clean up lead dust. Lead dust can harm a developing fetus.
- Remove children and pets from rooms being cleaned.
- Read the cleaning product's directions and warning label.



- Wear old clothes and plastic gloves.



- Collect the tools needed for cleaning. Refer to *Guidelines to Reduce Lead Dust in Homes and Apartments* for further information about finding these tools.

Refer to the Department of Public Health *Guidelines to Reduce Lead Dust in Homes and Apartments* or call your local health department for further details on how to find items mentioned in this pamphlet.

Local Health Department

Tools For Cleaning Lead Dust

- ✓ Plastic or rubber gloves, like those used for washing dishes.
- ✓ Plastic trash bags.
- ✓ A mop that can be washed or thrown away.
- ✓ A tack cloth.
- ✓ Three (3) plastic buckets.
- ✓ A spray bottle.
- ✓ Lint-free rags or sponges that can be thrown away.
- ✓ A cleaning product. You can use a general purpose cleaner, or products made for cleaning lead dust.
- ✓ Industrial vacuum with a HEPA filter. HEPA = **H**igh **E**fficiency **P**articulate **A**ir. **Do not use a common household vacuum cleaner to clean lead dust.** It will spread lead dust into the air!!



To Clean Surfaces

1. Remove large paint chips: With plastic gloves on, pick up large paint chips and place them into a plastic trash bag.
 2. Remove smaller paint chips by:
 - Vacuuming, using **only** an industrial HEPA vacuum
- OR-**
- Misting the chips with water, then sweeping them up and putting them into a trash bag.
3. Prepare three (3) buckets. The first bucket will have the cleaning mixture in it. The second bucket will have only plain water. The third bucket will be empty so you can squeeze dirty water from the rag (or sponge) into it after you wipe down surfaces.
 4. Clean one room at a time. Clean the highest surfaces first and work your way to the floor. Always start at the farthest corner of the room and work your way to the door.



Step-by-Step Summary of Wet Cleaning

Step 1 Wet a clean rag or mop with the cleaning mixture.



Step 2 Wipe the surface with the damp rag or mop.



Step 3 Rinse the used rag or mop in the bucket with the plain water.

Step 4 Squeeze extra water out of the rag or mop into the empty bucket.

Step 5 Repeat **Steps 1 to 4** until the surfaces have been completely cleaned in one room.

Step 6 Empty all buckets and fill one with new, clean water. Wipe down all of the cleaned surfaces, using a clean rag and the plain water. Squeeze out extra water into one of the empty buckets.

Step 7 Make a new bucket of cleaning mixture. Get a clean rag or mop. Move to another room and repeat **Steps 1 to 6**.

Continue until all rooms have been cleaned.

Use a tack cloth to pick up lead chips on surfaces that may be damaged by the cleaning mixture.

Cleaning Carpets and Rugs

- **To remove carpets for cleaning or to throw them away:**

Mist the rugs with water. Roll up the carpet and carpet pad, and wrap them in plastic. If you are leaving the carpet pad in place, clean the pad like wall-to-wall carpeting (see below).
- **To clean wall-to-wall carpets:**

Vacuum the rug using an industrial HEPA vacuum with the 'bar beater' or 'agitator' attachment. Vacuum the rug from top to bottom and then left to right. Spend about 10 minutes vacuuming a small area (2 ft x 5 ft).

Rugs can then be steam cleaned. Use a small amount of detergent that has 5% phosphate in it or one that is made for cleaning lead dust.
- **To clean area rugs:**

Vacuum the top of the rug with the 'beater bar' or 'agitator' and the HEPA vacuum as described above.

Next, fold the rug in half and vacuum the back of the rug and floor normally. Do the same to the other half of the rug.

Slowly vacuum the top of the rug again using the 'bar beater' or 'agitator' attachments.
- **To clean scatter rugs:**

Wash scatter rugs in a washing machine. **Do not put in any clothes!** Use a general detergent or one that is made for cleaning lead dust.

